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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INFO : ARA/OAP, INR/RAR, Amembassy San Salvador

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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
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FROM : Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA

DATE: September 21, 1963

SUBJECT: Honduran-Salvadoran Boundary Commission Convenes

REF :

GG/H

The Honduran-Salvadoran International Boundary Commission held its first session on September 15, 1963 in Tegucigalpa. The Commission has been established to define the precise boundary between Salvador and Honduras. The initial meetings were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere; but, as might be expected, the accomplishments of the sessions were limited. The first actual working sessions are to take place in San Salvador in October shortly after Honduras holds its national elections.

The Commission numbers ten persons, mostly lawyers and engineers, five Honduran and five Salvadoran. The Honduran group consists of Alejandro RIVERA HERNANDEZ, Carlos Adrian PERDOMO, Miguel Antonio ALVARADO, all attorneys, and Magin LANZA and Guillermo INESTROZA, engineers. The Salvadoran representation is composed of Drs. Ramon LOPEZ JIMENEZ, Alfredo MARTINEZ MORENO, Julio Fausto FERNANDEZ, Alirio CORNEJO and Pablo Arnoldo GUZMAN.

President VILLEDA Morales personally presided over the inaugural session. Spokesmen for both delegations expressed the hope that, far from separating the two countries, the work of the commission would in the long run serve to improve relations between Honduras and El Salvador.

Both the governments of Salvador and Honduras have for some time considered taking steps to settle boundary problems between the two countries. The existing frontier, such as it is, has been determined largely on the basis of traditions and geographical features.

On September 17 Foreign Minister PERDOMO informed the Ambassador that he was hopeful a boundary treaty might be signed before the new Honduran government takes office in December. He stated the Salvadorans are anxious to work out an agreement at this time because the present Honduran admin-

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Drafted by: POL I/AK Kauffman:bca 9-18-63

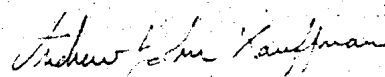
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Clearances:

istration favors an early settlement, whereas the views of its successor regarding the negotiation of a treaty cannot be determined.

COMMENT: Perdomo's hopes seem somewhat over-optimistic. The absence of any former border agreement between Honduras and El Salvador means that a great deal of time-consuming legal and technical work must be done before a treaty can be drawn up. Honduras' boundary problem with Nicaragua, for instance, was settled only after long legal proceedings. It, therefore, does not seem likely that the Honduran-Salvadoran Boundary Commission will be able to make sufficiently speedy progress to permit the drawing up of a boundary treaty between the two countries before the present Honduran administration goes out of office in December.

For the Ambassador:



Andrew J. Kauffman, 2nd
Second Secretary of Embassy


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